

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A toothpaste composition ~~obtained by adding, combining, or mixing~~ comprising:

- (A) from 30 to 60 wt% of erythritol having an average particle size of 200 μm or less,
- (B) from 15 to 30 wt% of water, and
- (C1) from 0.6 to 3 wt% of a binder,

wherein equation (1) is satisfied ~~prior to the adding, combining or mixing~~:

$$(\text{wt\% of (B) water}) \times 0.3 + 25 \leq (\text{wt\% of (A) erythritol}) \quad (1).$$

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A toothpaste composition comprising:

- (A) from 25 to 60 wt% of erythritol as powder having an average particle size of 200 μm or less,
- (B) from 15 to 30 wt% of water, and
- (C1) from 0.6 to 3 wt% of a binder.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A toothpaste composition ~~obtained by adding, combining or mixing~~ comprising:

- (A) from 30 to 60 wt% of erythritol having an average particle size of 200 μm or less,
- (B) from 15 to 30 wt% of water, and
- (C2) from 0.6 to 3 wt% of at least two binders selected from the group consisting of sodium alginate, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, carrageenan, xanthan gum, sodium polyacrylate, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, pectin, tragacanth gum, arabic gum, guar gum, karaya gum, locust bean gum, gellan gum, tamarind gum, Psyllium seed gum, polyvinyl alcohol, sodium chondroitin sulfate, and methoxyethylene maleic anhydride copolymer,

wherein equation (1) is satisfied ~~prior to the adding, combining or mixing~~:

$$(\text{wt\% of (B) water}) \times 0.3 + 25 \leq (\text{wt\% of (A) erythritol}) \quad (1).$$

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The toothpaste composition according to Claim 3, wherein (C2) comprises at least two binders selected from the group consisting of sodium alginate, carboxymethylcellulose sodium, carrageenan and xanthan gum.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The toothpaste composition according to Claim 3, wherein (C2) comprises at least three binders selected from the group consisting of sodium alginate, ~~carboxymethylcellulose~~ sodium carboxymethylcellulose, carrageenan, xanthan gum, sodium polyacrylate, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, pectin, tragacanth gum, gum arabic, guar gum, karaya gum, locust bean gum, gellan gum, tamarind gum, Psyllium seed gum, polyvinyl alcohol, sodium chondroitin sulfate, and methoxyethylene maleic anhydride copolymer.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The toothpaste composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition has a viscosity at 25°C of from 1500 to 5000 dPa·s.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The toothpaste composition according to claim 2, wherein the composition has a viscosity at 25°C of from 1500 to 5000 dPa·s.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The toothpaste composition according to claim 3, wherein the composition has a viscosity at 25°C of from 1500 to 5000 dPa·s.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The toothpaste composition according to claim 1, wherein (C1) comprises at least one binder selected from the group consisting of sodium alginate, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, carrageenan, xanthan gum, sodium polyacrylate, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, pectin, tragacanth gum, arabic gum, guar gum, karaya gum, locust bean gum, gellan gum, tamarind gum, Psyllium seed gum, polyvinyl alcohol, sodium chondroitin sulfate, and methoxyethylene maleic anhydride copolymer.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The toothpaste composition according to claim 2, wherein (A) is present in an amount of 35 to 55 wt% and (C1) is present in an amount of 0.8 to 2.5 wt%.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The toothpaste composition according to claim 2, wherein (A) is present in an amount of 38 to 50 wt% and (C1) is present in an amount of 1.0 to 2.0 wt%.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The toothpaste composition according to claim 1, wherein the erythritol (A) is obtained by grinding crystalline erythritol.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The toothpaste composition according to claim 2, wherein the erythritol (A) is obtained by grinding crystalline erythritol.

Claim 14 (New): The toothpaste composition according to claim 1 that provides a superior cooling sensation when used by a subject compared to an otherwise similar toothpaste that does not contain erythritol.

Claim 15 (New): The toothpaste composition according to claim 1 that is stable for 3 months when stored at 4°C, room temperature or 40°C.

Claim 16 (New): The toothpaste composition according to claim 1 that retains its shape when expressed from a tube and placed on the end of a toothbrush.

Claim 17 (New): The toothpaste composition according to claim 1 that is applicable on a toothbrush smoothly without threading.